AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-5 (canceled):

6. (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 5,~~ A method for causing an application selected for launching by a user during an operating session of a computer system to be launched during subsequent operating sessions, wherein the method comprises:

a) determining that the application has been launched during a portion of the operating session;

b) determining that the application has been launched a number of times exceeding a launch number criterion during portions of previous operating sessions, wherein the launch number criterion is held at a first level in response to a determination that a blacklist flag has not been set regarding the application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants the application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions, and wherein the launch number criterion is held at a second level in response to a determination that a blacklist flag has been set regarding the application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants the application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions;

c) determining that the application has been launched a percentage of times exceeding a launch percentage criterion during the portions of previous operating sessions, wherein the launch percentage criterion is held at a third level in response to a determination that a blacklist flag has not been set regarding the application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants the application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions, and wherein the launch percentage criterion is held at a fourth level in response to a

the launch percentage criterion is held at a fourth level in response to a determination that a blacklist flag has been set regarding the application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants the application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions[[.]];

d) displaying a user interface providing for a user selection indicating that the user wants the application to be launched during the subsequent operating sessions, wherein the user interface additionally provides for a user selection indicating that the user wants the application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions;

e) receiving a selection signal indicating that the user wants the application to be launched during the subsequent operating sessions; and

f) writing data to a startup sequence causing the application to be launched by the computer system during the subsequent operating sessions.

7. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 3~~ A method for causing an application selected for launching by a user during an operating session of a computer system to be launched during subsequent operating sessions, wherein the method comprises:

a) determining that the application has been launched during a portion of the operating session;

b) determining that the application has been launched a number of times exceeding a launch number criterion during portions of previous operating sessions;

c) determining that the application has been launched a percentage of times exceeding a launch percentage criterion during the portions of previous operating sessions;

d) displaying a user interface providing for a user selection indicating that the user wants the application to be launched during the subsequent

operating sessions, wherein the user interface additionally provides for a first user selection indicating that the user wants the application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions and for a second user selection indicating that the user wants applications removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions not to be reconsidered for launching during subsequent operating sessions[[,]]; ~~and wherein the method additionally includes:~~

e) receiving a selection signal indicating that the user wants the application to be launched during the subsequent operating sessions;

f) writing data to a startup sequence causing the application to be launched by the computer system during the subsequent operating sessions;

g) determining whether a blacklist flag has been set regarding the application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants the application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions;

h) in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has not been set, holding the launch number criterion at a first level and holding the launch percentage criterion at a third level;

i) in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has been set, holding the launch number criterion at a second level and holding the launch percentage criterion at a fourth level; and

j) in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has been set, determining that a reconsideration flag has not been set in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants applications removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions not to be reconsidered for launching during subsequent operating sessions[[,]].

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the user interface additionally provides for user selections setting the first, second, third, and fourth levels.

9-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended): ~~The computer system of claim 11,~~ A computer system comprising a display screen; data and instruction storage storing a plurality of applications, a startup configuration database, and a launch history database storing data corresponding to previously launched applications within the plurality of applications; and a microprocessor programmed to perform a method comprising:

a) reading data within the startup configuration database;

b) launching an application within the plurality of applications from data corresponding to the application within the startup configuration database;

c) displaying a first user interface on the display screen providing for user selection of an application within the plurality of applications;

d) launching a user-selected application in response to a selection signal indicating user selection of the application;

e) writing data corresponding to the user-selected application to the launch history database;

f) determining from data stored within the launch history database that the user-selected application has been launched a number of times exceeding a launch number criterion;

g) determining from data stored within the launch history database that the user-selected application has been launched a percentage of times exceeding a launch percentage criterion;

h) displaying a second user interface on the display screen providing for a user selection indicating that the user wants the user-selected application to be launched during subsequent operating sessions, wherein the second user interface additionally provides for a first user selection indicating that the user wants the user-selected application to be removed from consideration to be

launched during subsequent operating sessions and for a second user selection indicating that the user wants applications removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions not to be reconsidered for launching during subsequent operating sessions[[,]]; ~~and wherein the method additionally includes~~

i) receiving a selection signal indicating that the user wants the user-selected application to be launched during the subsequent operating sessions; and

j) writing data to the startup configuration database corresponding to the user-selected application;

k) determining whether a blacklist flag has been set regarding the user-selected application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants the user-selected application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions;

l) in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has not been set, holding the launch number criterion at a first level and holding the launch percentage criterion at a third level;

m) in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has been set, holding the launch number criterion at a second level and holding the launch percentage criterion at a fourth level; and

n) in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has been set, determining that a reconsideration flag has not been set in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants applications removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions not to be reconsidered for launching during subsequent operating sessions[[,]].

15. (original): The computer system of claim 14, wherein the second user interface additionally provides for user selections setting the first, second, third,

and fourth levels.

16. (currently amended): ~~The computer system of claim 9, wherein~~ A computer system comprising a display screen; data and instruction storage storing a plurality of applications, a ~~the~~ startup configuration database ~~includes~~ including a number of user configuration data structures for a number of users of the computer system, and a ~~the~~ launch history database ~~includes~~ including a number of user launch history data structures for a number of users of the computer system storing data corresponding to previously launched applications within the plurality of applications; and a microprocessor programmed to perform a method comprising:

a) determining that a user has logged ~~step a) is preceded by a user logging~~ onto the computer system[[,]],

b) reading data within the startup configuration database; wherein,

c) launching an application within the plurality of applications from data corresponding to the application within the startup configuration database;

d) displaying a first user interface on the display screen providing for user selection of an application within the plurality of applications;

e) launching a user-selected application in response to a selection signal indicating user selection of the application;

f) writing data corresponding to the user-selected application to the launch history database, wherein, as the method is performed, data written to and read from the launch history database is written to and read from the user launch history data structure of the user logging onto the computer system;

g) determining from data stored within the launch history database that the user-selected application has been launched a number of times exceeding a launch number criterion; and

h) writing data to the startup configuration database corresponding to the user-selected application, wherein as the method is performed, data written

to and read from the startup configuration database is written to and read from the user configuration data structure of the user logging onto the computer system~~, and as the method is performed, data written to and read from the launch history database is written to and read from the user launch history data structure of the user logging onto the computer system~~.

17. (currently amended): ~~The computer system of claim 9,~~ A computer system comprising a display screen; data and instruction storage storing a plurality of applications, a startup configuration database, and a launch history database storing data corresponding to previously launched applications within the plurality of applications; and a microprocessor programmed to perform a method comprising:

a) reading data within the startup configuration database;

b) launching an application within the plurality of applications from data corresponding to the application within the startup configuration database;

c) displaying a first user interface on the display screen providing for user selection of an application within the plurality of applications;

d) launching a user-selected application in response to a selection signal indicating user selection of the application;

e) writing data corresponding to the user-selected application to the launch history database, wherein data is written to the launch history database ~~and to the startup configuration database~~ corresponding to the user-selected application only during a predetermined period following launching applications within the plurality of applications from data corresponding to the applications within the startup configuration database[[.]];

f) determining from data stored within the launch history database that the user-selected application has been launched a number of times exceeding a launch number criterion; and

g) writing data to the startup configuration database corresponding to

the user-selected application, wherein data is written to the startup configuration database corresponding to the user-selected application only during a predetermined period following launching applications within the plurality of applications from data corresponding to the applications within the startup configuration database.

18-21 (canceled)

22. (currently amended) ~~The computer program product of claim 20,~~ A computer program product for use with a computer system having a microprocessor executing program steps from an operating system having a capability to launch applications from data corresponding to the applications stored within a startup configuration database, wherein the computer program product includes a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied thereon causing the microprocessor to additionally perform a method comprising:

a) determining through an operating system interface with the operating system that a selected application has been launched;

b) writing data corresponding to the selected application to a launch history data file,

c) determining from data stored within the launch history database that the selected application has been launched a number of times exceeding a launch number criterion, wherein ~~the second user interface additionally provides for a user selection indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions,~~ the launch number criterion is held at a first level in response to a determination that a blacklist flag has not been set regarding the selected application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from

consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions, and wherein the launch number criterion is held at a second level in response to a determination that a blacklist flag has been set regarding the selected application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions[[,]];

d) determining from data stored within the launch history database that the selected application has been launched a percentage of times exceeding a launch percentage criterion, wherein the launch percentage criterion is held at a third level in response to a determination that a blacklist flag has not been set regarding the selected application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions, and wherein the launch percentage criterion is held at a fourth level in response to a determination that a blacklist flag has been set regarding the selected application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions[[.]];

e) displaying a second user interface on the display screen providing for a user selection indicating that the user wants the selected application to be launched during subsequent operating sessions and additionally providing for a user selection indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions,

f) receiving a selection signal indicating that the user wants the selected application to be launched during the subsequent operating sessions; and

g) writing data corresponding to the selected application to the startup configuration database.

23. (currently amended): ~~The computer program product of claim 20,~~ A computer program product for use with a computer system having a microprocessor executing program steps from an operating system having a capability to launch applications from data corresponding to the applications stored within a startup configuration database, wherein the computer program product includes a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied thereon causing the microprocessor to additionally perform a method comprising:

a) determining through an operating system interface with the operating system that a selected application has been launched;

b) writing data corresponding to the selected application to a launch history data file;

c) determining from data stored within the launch history database that the selected application has been launched a number of times exceeding a launch number criterion;

d) determining from data stored within the launch history database that the selected application has been launched a percentage of times exceeding a launch percentage criterion;

e) displaying a second user interface on the display screen providing for a user selection indicating that the user wants the selected application to be launched during subsequent operating sessions, wherein the second user interface additionally provides for a first user selection indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions and for a second user selection indicating that the user wants applications removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions not to be reconsidered for launching during subsequent operating sessions~~, and wherein the method additionally includes:~~;

f) receiving a selection signal indicating that the user wants the selected application to be launched during the subsequent operating sessions;

g) writing data corresponding to the selected application to the startup configuration database.

h) determining whether a blacklist flag has been set regarding the selected application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions;

i) in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has not been set, holding the launch number criterion at a first level and holding the launch percentage criterion at a third level;

j) in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has been set, holding the launch number criterion at a second level and holding the launch percentage criterion at a fourth level; and

k) in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has been set, determining that a reconsideration flag has not been set in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants applications removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions not to be reconsidered for launching during subsequent operating sessions[[,]].

24. (original) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the second user interface additionally provides for user selections setting the first, second, third, and fourth levels.

25. (currently amended): ~~The computer program product of claim 18,~~ A computer program product for use with a computer system having a microprocessor executing program steps from an operating system having a capability to launch applications from data corresponding to the applications

stored within a startup configuration database, wherein the computer program product includes a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied thereon causing the microprocessor to additionally perform a method comprising:

a) determining that a user has logged onto the computer system;

b) determining through an operating system interface with the operating system that a selected application has been launched;

c) writing data corresponding to the selected application to a launch history database, wherein the launch history database includes a number of user launch history data structures for a number of users of the computer system, ~~step a) is preceded by a user logging onto the computer system,~~ and wherein, as the method is performed, data written to and read from the launch history database is written to and read from the user launch history data structure of the user logging onto the computer system;

d) determining from data stored within the launch history database that the selected application has been launched a number of times exceeding a launch number criterion; and

e) writing data corresponding to the selected application to the startup configuration database, wherein as the method is performed, data written to and read from the startup configuration database is written to and read from a user configuration data structure of the user logging onto the computer system within the startup configuration database~~, and as the method is performed, data written to and read from the launch history database is written to and read from the user launch history data structure of the user logging onto the computer system~~.

26. (currently amended) ~~The computer program product of claim 18,~~ A computer program product for use with a computer system having a microprocessor executing program steps from an operating system having a capability to launch applications from data corresponding to the applications

stored within a startup configuration database, wherein the computer program product includes a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied thereon causing the microprocessor to additionally perform a method comprising:

a) determining through an operating system interface with the operating system that a selected application has been launched;

b) writing data corresponding to the selected application to a launch history data file;

c) determining from data stored within the launch history database that the selected application has been launched a number of times exceeding a launch number criterion wherein data is written to the launch history database ~~and to the startup configuration database~~ corresponding to the selected application only during a predetermined period following launching applications within the plurality of applications from data corresponding to the applications within the startup configuration database[[.]]; and

d) writing data corresponding to the selected application to the startup configuration database wherein data is written to the startup configuration database corresponding to the selected application only during a predetermined period following launching applications within the plurality of applications from data corresponding to the applications within the startup configuration database.

27-35 (canceled)